

## **Co-Chair's Report for AGM 2022**

*By Anna Haydock Wilson and Sandra Fryer, presented by Anna.*

### **Introduction**

Welcome to this AGM of Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association.

This evening we have a meeting of two parts, firstly the formal business side of the Association, including this report which covers the period from last AGM, and our financial report which covers the year from April 21 to March 22.

After the formal part, we will have workshop style discussions, with individual tables focusing on key issues, sharing ideas and developing some next steps.

This has really been a year of transition as we move on from Dennis's brilliant leadership and seek to re-check what the HCCA means to us, what our key vision is and what we really should and can do, and above all have the capacity to do.

### **Emerging Business Plan**

*Please see attached draft*

We have been doing some work on a new Business Plan for the HCCA, a base which we can use for making bids for funding, a base on which we are now thinking about some regular sub groups, and a base on which we hope to grow our membership. The key themes which have emerged are around

- To provide leadership and a voice for Hotwells & Cliftonwood
- To adopt the principles and actions for a 20 Minute Neighbourhood
- To promote activities that support a stronger local community
- To set out the opportunity to invest in Hotwells and Cliftonwood that reflect the HCCA vision and the required community infrastructure to support existing and new communities
- To adopt an effective communications and engagement plan
- To work in partnership with key stakeholders and partners for the benefit of the neighbourhood.

We hope to conclude our business planning work soon. It will essentially be a three-year plan which we will update every year. We also think this will enable us to develop our work with key partners including our local councillors, the City Council, adjoining community organisations, arts and other funding bodies who might work with us in achieving our ambitions.

Bearing in mind our new business plan we also see a small number of subgroups emerging and that we expect to grow under the work of the HCCA. We have set up this evening to reflect these themes, to enable everyone to share this vision, to share ideas and to co-create an action plan going forward.

We continue to mull over ideas for a community base/ a building/ a container or a room where we can meet, network and support the community. We registered The Bear as a Community Asset ready for if and when the brewing company decide to sell. There are opportunities in the new developments such as the caravan park (which of course many would prefer does not get developed). We would love to hear any ideas you have too. We propose to raise this with the City Council when we meet representatives.

### **Activities we have carried out this year.**

We have had a range of events and activities this year, much reflecting our capacity, and opportunities to work with others including:

- Ongoing maintenance and gradual development of improvements to the Piazza, many people don't realise how important the piazza, designed by Dame Sylvia Crowe in the

1960s, is to the overall character and design of the Cumberland Basin. We continue to fulfil the legacy left to the CA by Ray Smith. Thanks to our artists, including Amy Hutchings, Luke Palmer, Chris Tunstall from Move More Fitness who generally keeps an eye on the piazza for us. Also a big thanks to all those people who helped with our celebrating Sanctuary event as part of Bristol refugee festival in June this year.

- Noticeboards are a key line of communication for our area, we thank you again to those who look after our noticeboards, which we feel are a vital form of communication for us- Caroline Grazebrook, Lesley & Giles Woodward, Gayle Richards, Rosalind Bennet, Emma Peddie & Anna.
- Newsletter- A big thanks to Omair Nayaar who edits and sends out our monthly e-bulletin.
- Graffiti Cleaning- again thanks to Caroline and all the team.
- The Steps & Paths group- thanks to Rachel McNally for taking over from Hazel

We welcome volunteers for all these activities- please use our sign up sheets if you want to volunteer.

- Developing a Neighbourhood Agreement with BCC Community Development team and Holy Trinity Hotwells- this has involved door knocking our local social housing and listening to caretakers and residents. Thanks to Kerry Rowe and Liz Leaman.
- Western Harbour, we made representations to the consultation in the summer, and we have been in touch with the City Council and the Civic Society but little information was gained. We understand the City has scoped a major regeneration study to take forward Western Harbour but that they do not yet have the funds for this work. The Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group has not met recently, and we have had no communication at all with the Western Harbour Advisory Group. We are planning a special meeting on this and our 20 Minute Neighbourhood visioning in the spring and hope city representatives will make time available. Our next step will be a scoping meeting with our local councillors. To be effective we also need to develop a stronger relationship with partners south of the river, such as Action Greater Bedminster.
- Local emission zone and enhanced bus lanes on the Portway. We have made representations to the Council about the combined impact of these actions, we had hoped to have some BCC staff here tonight but that has not proved possible, hence we plan 20 minute neighbourhood event in the spring.

And then there are other events that amazing locals organise that HCCA support or have supported in the past- a big thanks to all those teams

- West Bristol Arts trail
- Cliftonwood Open Air Cinema
- Hotwells Festivals

### **HCCA Committee**

Turning to the HCCA Committee this year, we had a bit of a refresh with Sandra Fryer, Rachel McNally, Paul Ville, Sibusiso Tshabalala and Steve Evans joining us. Regrettably due to moving out of the area and work pressures, Paul and Steve have subsequently stepped down.

We are also sorry to report that one of our longest serving committee members will be standing down at the end of this year. We would like to sincerely thank Chris Smart for all her work and efforts on behalf of HCCA, especially organising visits and events, like the Somali Cultural Exchange evening here back in May 2018.

Greta news we have new people keen to join the committee, including Julian Brown who is taking over from Brenda as Treasurer- Brenda has kept us solvent for 20 years, despite losing statutory income from BCC back in 2010. Brenda will remain as Trustee and Company Secretary- massive thanks to her.

We welcome anyone who want to join the MC- elections will follow or talk to us after.

### **Conclusion**

I hope you have found this interesting, there is quite a bit going on but we can always do more. We are a flexible and creative organisation, if there are things you would like us to pick up please let us know either this evening or go to the HCCA website or Committee members directly.

Soon we will be celebrating 50 years since the Community Association came into existence. It was in 1974 that the CA was set up and of course its key aim then was to open Hope Centre at the heart of the community, wouldn't it be amazing if we could celebrate 50 years by re-opening a contemporary community hub. If you have ideas or know anyone who can help, please get in touch.

Myself and all the Committee look forward to working with you over the next year, ensuring we work for our community, that our voice is heard and we ensure long term investment in our great local community.